

# HIGHLIGHTS

**August 2016**



**Train up a child in the way he should go:  
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

**- Proverbs 22:6**

KEEPING GOD'S COVENANT

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

The title to this article is also the title of a book published in 2006 by the British Reformed Fellowship (BRF). The book consists of six chapters which were originally lectures given by Prof. Herman Hanko and Prof. David Engelsma. The BRF has done Reformed believers a great service over the years by not only holding biennial conferences, but by publishing the lectures and sermons of these conferences in book form. I took the opportunity this summer to read several of these books again. Keeping God's Covenant was of special interest to me because of its direct connection to Reformed education and the close connection between home and school.

In the chapter entitled, "Keeping God's Covenant in the Home", Prof. Hanko wrote, "Now, I am aware of the fact, of course, that part of the covenant instruction is the establishment of Christian schools. That is another reason why God's people, when they are scattered hither and yon, ought to come together so that, if at all possible, they can establish Christian schools where their children can be taught in the truths of God's Word in creation and history from the viewpoint of the Scriptures and the Reformed faith. Nevertheless the home is the fundamental institution of society, and the school can never rise in its moral character or in the quality of its instruction, from a spiritual and confessional point of view, higher than the level of the home. The home is important for covenant instruction."

As parents, how high do we desire the spiritual quality of education to be for our children in school? I'm sure we would all say we desire it to be very high. Then we all have some examination to do. What is the level of the moral character and quality of instruction in each of our homes? How high spiritually is it? Reflect over the last three months during which time our children were not in school and the sole responsibility of instruction was in the home. What was the level of our family devotional life? What was the focus of our family life? Was it all fun and games? Did our entertainment and the children's entertainment display the life of the antithesis? Or did the cares and the pleasures of this world consume most of our time and energy? Did we as parents demand godly obedience and respect from our children and did we exercise good Christian discipline when that discipline was necessary? Or were we lax and let the children "rule the roost" so to speak? These are important questions and concerns that each of us as parents must consider because they bear on the lives of our children and the cause of God's covenant in our generations.

But the answer to these questions also bear on the instruction at school because as Prof. Hanko is at pains to point out, the home is the fundamental institution in all of God's creation. The school cannot replace or do the necessary foundational work of the home. It can only be of spiritual assistance to the home. And that assistance the Christian school must be.

I have had the privilege and joy to participate in the interviewing of all new families who seek enrollment of their child(ren) at Hope School. I have heard firsthand the desire of these parents to have their child(ren) educated in the fear of the Lord and their testimony that they give that same training to their child(ren) in their home. These parents desire that their child(ren) be shown the truths of God's Word in creation and history from the viewpoint of the Scriptures and the Reformed faith. They also desire that their child(ren) be disciplined to live as God's child(ren) in behavior toward their teacher and classmates.

Parents, let's keep the spiritual level of our homes high and demand and expect the same from the school. Teachers, strive to meet these high expectations and provide the best academic

training from a Scriptural point of view to the best of your abilities. Then this 70<sup>th</sup> year of covenantal instruction at Hope School will nurture a godly generation who love and serve the Lord. In this way God's covenant will be kept.



## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS



### EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Dick Kuiper, Chairman  
Aaron Cleveland, Jeff Kalsbeek, Joel Langerak

*"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children....." Deuteronomy 6: 6, 7a*

Hope School will open its doors for another year of covenantal instruction on Monday, August 29, the Lord willing. We welcome back all of our teachers and other staff members, with a special welcome to our new second grade teacher, Mrs. Stephanie Daling. We pray that the Lord will bless the instruction of our teachers again this year, and that our students may do their classroom work to the best of their abilities and deal with their fellow students in a spirit of love and kindness.

After several months of work, our committee has developed, and the Board has approved, a new Information Security Policy for Hope School. This policy deals with how Hope School handles and protects the confidential information received from background checks, and became necessary due to federal laws regarding such information. The FBI holds the Michigan State Police accountable for how all Michigan schools are handling such data and the State Police will be auditing schools to ensure compliance. Our new policy closely follows the template provided by a State Police auditor and has met her approval.

At our June meeting the Board approved forming an Ad Hoc committee comprised of representatives of four Board committees, whose sole responsibility is to thoroughly study the matter of incorporating language into our Bylaws, Constitution, handbooks, and other policies, to protect our school from the threat of the LGBT coalition and other ungodly threats.

We want to thank our Technology Committee for their work over the summer months, with a special word of thanks to Mr. Dan DeVries and Mr. Matt Elzinga for their help and expertise with our technological needs. As part of our annual replacement schedule, four new desktop computers have been purchased. In addition, thanks to some very generous donations, 32 Chromebooks and a charging cart have been purchased for introduction into the classrooms this year. Chromebooks are being used successfully in some of our other schools and will be a great benefit to meet our growing needs and give multiple classes ready access to this technology simultaneously.

May God bless our labors, as parents and teachers, again this year as together we strive to rear our children in the fear of His name and may the instruction they receive ".....serve to prepare them to follow their lifelong calling to reveal the glory of God in a life lived from the principle of regeneration by grace." (Constitution Art. 1.C.)

## BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeremy Meulenberg, Chairman  
Rich DeMeester, Jason Engelsma, Dan Schipper

The Building Committee has been busy over the summer with our regularly scheduled projects including painting and carpet replacement, which have been done in the fourth and sixth grade classrooms. This summer also saw some old and stained flooring in five bathrooms being replaced and upgraded with epoxy flooring, exterior and interior maintenance painting, and landscaping added around our new sign. We have been working on and will have completed the society approved project of installing new ceiling grid, tiles, and lighting in the front entry, and upper and middle hallways. The new LED lighting, ceiling grid, and tiles look great and improve the lighting and look of our front entry. Thanks to Bosveld Inc., Kleyn Electric, and all those who helped with the demolition and removal of the existing ceiling!

Most of the Building Committees work involves the maintaining and caring for our existing building. To help us do that, the Board has hired Erin Windemuller to be our next maintenance manager. We will be working with him to take care of minor repairs and upgrades as well as routine maintenance of the mechanicals. We welcome him and thank our retiring maintenance manager, Mike Cleveland, for his service.

The Building Committee has been working with the Decorating Committee from the School Circle to add some improvements to our building. You will notice some of their handiwork with the new epoxy floor and logo in the front entry vestibule, along with new lighting, furniture, graduation picture displays, and décor. They have also added a mural painted by Gayle Lotterman, artwork displays, planters, and other details that you will have to stop and see at your next visit. We would like to thank the School Circle for their work and funding of these special projects.

Speaking of your next visit, we would like to remind everyone of the security policy that was implemented the end of last year. All doors will be locked during the school day so please enter through the main entrance (East) and push the buzzer to be admitted. While you are waiting to be admitted, and as you are admiring the new décor, please make sure to sign in on the sign in sheet provided. We also ask that you sign out as you leave. This allows us to know who is in the building if there would happen to be an emergency. We appreciate your patience as we all get used to this new policy.

We look forward to a new school year and pray that the Lord will bless our efforts, for without His help, we labor in vain.

## ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Joel Langerak, Chairman  
Dick Kuiper, Steve Lotterman, Jon Rutgers

Fulfilling our obligation to protect the membership at our school, the Enrollment Committee interviewed two couples seeking to enroll their first child into kindergarten. After these enjoyable interviews, the committee was pleased to recommend to the Board that we approve the applications of these parents to enroll their children in Hope Protestant

Reformed Christian School. Please join the Board in a warm welcome of Brent and Kara Kregel and their daughter Nelle, and Jason and Jill Kregel and their son Anthony.

In order that we all may become acquainted with them, both families have written brief introductions about themselves that you will find following this report.

We are thankful for faithful parents that share the zeal to educate their children in the fear of the Lord. What a precious gift God has entrusted to us in our Christian schools.

We ask that you continue to pray that God preserve and bless the work of your schools in the Godly instruction of our covenant seed.



### *INTRODUCTIONS FROM OUR NEW FAMILIES:*

Hello! Some of you know us, but some of you may not, so here is a quick look at our family. We are Brent and Kara Kregel, son of David and Mary Kregel, and daughter of David and Karla Kamps. We are members at Grandville PRC and have been since we were married in October of 2007.

Brent provides for our family by working at Kregel's Landscape. His hobbies, or maybe I should say past times, are golfing, playing softball with friends, and watching a good game of MI football. I, Kara, spend my day taking care of our three little girls. I started that calling the day Nelle was born, on Christmas Eve 2010. We have since been blessed with two more daughters, Tessa who is 3 years old and Clara who is a few months shy of 2. The girls keep me busy, but I still find time to tend to my flowers and to work on various projects that require power tools and a creative imagination. As a family we enjoy camping together and look forward to the day when taking a road trip around the country doesn't sound like a dreaded chore. We also spend a lot of time visiting with our families and friends.

Like most parents putting their first child in school, we were tentative to have Nelle leave our comfortable home. However, we entrust her to the care of Hope School and are assured they will do their best to help carry out our baptismal vows. We look forward to entering this new phase in our lives and starting fellowship with you all.

We are Jason and Jill Kregel. We are members at Grandville PRC and are excited to begin our children's education here at Hope School. We both attended Covenant Christian and graduated in 2003. After high school Jill enjoyed working as an administrative assistant at Vibration Research Corp. She worked there until Anthony was born. Jill enjoys playing outside with the kids, baking, and figuring out how to put anything together.

Jason works at Kregel's Landscape Service. He enjoys playing golf, camping with the family, or just about anything outdoors.

Jason and Jill were married on September 9, 2005. Anthony was born December 20, 2010. He is true boy and loves trucks, tractors, boats, and playing in the mud. He is always asking questions about how things work. Preston was born next on September 11, 2012. He tries his hardest to keep up with his big brother Anthony. He too loves trucks, tractors, boats, and playing in the mud. He loves to "push buttons" to get reactions from others. Finally, Brooklyn was born on July 14, 2015. She is a spunky 1 year old who loves her brothers, even if they are on the ground tackling her.

As a family we try to go camping a few times in the summer. We love to go swimming in the summer and clearing the driveway of snow in the winter. The boys have almost mastered shoveling the driveway by themselves!

We are very excited to start Anthony at Hope School, the Lord willing, this fall.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Steve Lotterman, Chairman  
Dan Boeve, Andy Bylsma, Jon Rutgers

We are down to only a few more weeks until school begins again. For the School Board and Finance Committee, the new year started in July with the enrollment process. We find this to be a very enjoyable process, in which we are encouraged by the financial support and prayers of the ninety-one families that again commit to another year of covenantal instruction of their children.

This issue of the Highlights contains the 2015 - 2016 Year End Financial statement. A review of this information will show that we ended the year with a modest gain of just over \$3,600.00. As our income for the year was over \$27,800 of our budgeted amount, and our expenses were going to be \$15,800 under, the decision was made to pay an additional \$40,000 towards our mortgage. As of the end of June, our balance on the mortgage was close to \$33,700, so we should have this debt paid off within the next few months - for which we can all be very thankful!

We would like to thank all those that have supported the school through the financial drives. Although we fell \$5,500 short of our \$250,000 goal, our other income made up for this shortfall. Please continue to give to our drives as you are able, remembering that the society has approved a \$25,000 increase of our Drive goal for the next fiscal year.

We are pleased to report that having monthly e-mailed tuition statements appeared to be very well received this past year. Any errors were noticed and quickly corrected. Tuition payments seemed to be made more promptly, and for this we are thankful. For those who indicated interest, we will be setting up direct transfer of funds for tuition payments within the next month or two.

As we begin another school year, we are thankful that our Heavenly Father supplies our needs and provides the means to operate this school, and it is our prayer that God's blessing will continue in the generations to come.

*\*\*Financial report on page 8\*\**

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Dan Boeve, Chairman  
Jason Engelsma, Jon Rutgers

The buses are ready to go. This year we have a new driver, Jen Kalsbeek, who will be driving the Jenison route. Dan Kalsbeek will be sharing this route with her starting out this fall and Jen will drive more as the year goes along. Tom Oosterhouse and Philip Rainey are also back driving the routes they had last year. As always, we appreciate the drivers' hard work and commitment to bringing our children to school safely every day. Parents, please review the bus policies in the school directory and remind your children to show proper respect and courtesy toward the drivers and fellow bus riders. If there are any questions or concerns regarding transportation, please contact Dan Kalsbeek, Transportation Supervisor (616-890-1029) or Dan Boeve, Transportation Committee Chairman (616-667-0136).

## 2016-17 Hope PRCs Bus Routes

### **No. 13 Grandville/Jenison**

Drivers: Jen Kalsbeek (570-0074 home, 350-5376 cell)

Dan Kalsbeek (791-4425 home, 890-1029 cell)

6:56	N. Price	1631 Stoneybrook Dr. Jenison 49428	
7:00	R. VanBaren	7936 Ronson Ave. Jenison 49428	
7:04	T. Kalsbeek	8071 Lamplight Dr. Jenison 49428	
7:06	D. DeJong	7655 Graceland Dr. Jenison 49428	
7:16	K. Kalsbeek	7185 48 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Hudsonville 49426	
7:21	M. Potjer	6955 Longtail Dr. Hudsonville 49426	Covenant
7:26	M. DeBoer	7028 Rolling Hills Dr. Hudsonville 49426	
7:29	M. DeKraker	Corner of Greentree Dr. & Pine St.	Covenant
7:30	J. Molenkamp	7420 Harmon Ln. Jenison 49428	
7:38	D. Kuiper	7555 Louise Ave. Jenison 49428	
7:55	B. Duistermars	1092 White Pine Dr. Grand Rapids 49534	
8:00	Covenant		

### **No. 14 Byron Center/Wyoming**

Driver: Phillip Rainey (340-1333 cell)

7:00	B. Kregel (M,W,F)	6886 Kenowa Ave, Byron Center, 49315	
7:05	P. Doezema	1040 Quincy St. Grandville 49418	Covenant
7:12	J. Kregel (M,W,F)	4613 Caspian Dr. Hudsonville, 49426	
7:17	T. VerStrate	2187 Riley St. Hudsonville 49426	Covenant
7:22	M. Gritters	2018 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Byron Center 49315	
7:23	T. Bomers	1815 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Byron Center 49315	
7:26	B. VanBaren	2055 Perry St. Byron Center 49315	
7:32	B. Klamer	Corner of 100 <sup>th</sup> and Wilson	
7:35	T. Kaptein	3375 92 <sup>nd</sup> St. Byron Center 49315	Covenant
7:38	J. Cleveland	9170 Byron Center Byron Center 49315	
8:00	Covenant		

### **No. 15 Standale/Coopersville**

Driver: Tom Oosterhouse (238-9026 cell)

6:46	N. DeVries/D. Rutgers	11830 24th Ave, Marne, 49435	
6:52	B. VanderVeen	11395 Hunter Meadow Allendale 49401	
7:02	J. Langerak	5150 Candlewood Ct. Coopersville 49404	
7:08	S. Hoeksema	13983 32nd Ave, Marne, 49435	
7:11	T. Kleyn	4263 Garfield Coopersville 49404	
7:13	T. VanDenTop	Sam's Joint Coopersville	
7:25	J. Peterson	0-13145 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Grand Rapids 49534	
7:31	G. Feenstra	13887 Northpointe Dr. Grand Rapids 49534	
7:41	D. Kalsbeek	1607 Awixa St. Grand Rapids 49534	
7:50	S. Copple/R. Smit	659 Lincoln Ave. Grand Rapids 49504	Covenant
7:59	J. VanOostenbrugge	50 Cummings Grand Rapids MI 49534	
8:03	Covenant		

**HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
INCOME STATEMENT  
JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016**

	JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	46,780.19	1.17	40,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	244,537.00	0.98	250,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	18,000.00	1.00	18,000.00
GYM RENTAL	5,160.08	1.47	3,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	800.00		-
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	15,397.75	1.36	11,357.20
TUITION	736,718.54	1.03	717,570.00
BUS FEES	29,649.00	1.03	28,800.00
TOTAL INCOME:	1,097,042.56	1.03	1,069,227.20

<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			
ACCOUNTING FEES	3,450.00	1.00	3,450.00
BAND EXPENSE	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	19,000.00	0.95	20,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	13,500.00	1.00	13,500.00
ELECTRIC	18,687.12	1.04	18,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	1,350.00	1.00	1,350.00
FEDERATION DUES	801.92	0.80	1,000.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	9,181.00	0.99	9,256.00
GROUP INSURANCE	95,008.86	0.96	99,400.00
HEAT	8,101.63	0.62	13,000.00
HRA	3,999.96	1.00	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	2,795.08	0.87	3,200.00
LAWN MAINTENANCE	2,489.33	1.66	1,500.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
MAINTENANCE MAN	290.50	0.14	2,100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	2,338.38	0.99	2,354.41
BUILDING MORTGAGE PAYMENT	160,000.00	1.33	120,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	878.05	0.73	1,200.00
PAYROLL, ART TEACHER	1,830.00	0.92	2,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	7,362.34	1.01	7,300.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	4,837.64	0.99	4,900.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY ROOM	49,785.87	1.15	43,156.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	28,002.80	1.00	28,000.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	4,360.50	1.04	4,200.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	24,846.50	0.99	25,130.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	630.00	0.32	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	458,392.88	1.01	454,935.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	8,483.35	1.69	5,009.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	7,560.88	0.84	9,000.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	17,346.66	1.16	14,942.73
SNOW REMOVAL	1,818.75	0.61	3,000.00
TRASH REMOVAL	1,638.95	1.09	1,500.00
TAXES, PAYROLL	43,151.26	0.97	44,420.57
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	3,372.00	0.84	4,000.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TELEPHONE	1,600.20	1.00	1,600.00
WATER & SEWER	1,090.81	0.84	1,300.00
WORKER'S COMP	2,427.50	0.81	3,000.00
CONTINGENCY	894.42	0.18	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	1,015,305.14	1.03	981,703.71

<b>BUS EXPENSES</b>			
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	20,000.04	1.00	20,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	-	-	400.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	31,271.98	1.06	29,562.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	2,389.00	1.06	2,261.49
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	809.00	0.81	1,000.00
BUS INSURANCE	2,907.00	1.04	2,800.00
BUS REPAIR	8,062.02	0.62	13,000.00
GAS AND OIL	11,649.03	0.67	17,500.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	78,088.07	0.89	87,523.49
TOTAL EXPENSES:	1,093,393.21	1.02	1,069,227.20
GAIN OR (LOSS):	3,649.35	-	-



## STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

### A GOOD ROUTINE

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

It is hard to believe that the summer is almost over. It seems like in just a blink of an eye that I was getting a new class of little ones, eager to begin their Christian education. It took a while, but eventually we got into our routines. There was the routine of morning procedures, the routine of preparing to learn our academics, and even the routine of where and how to sit during chapel. When the cold came and the snow began to fly, we took on the routine of getting ready for recess warmly dressed. (I do not miss that routine!)

Then, suddenly, our school year was complete and I took on another, more relaxed routine. Most of my summer was spent shuttling my daughter to her 4-H fair and various camps. I had more free time than I was accustomed to. I went into school and spent a relaxing time organizing papers which I didn't have time to attend to during the school year. I began working on materials for the upcoming class. My summer routine was much less structured than my school year routines.

When I think of routines from the Bible that we teach in Kindergarten, we see the first one given to us in the very first chapters, Genesis 1-2. God spoke all of Creation into existence in six days. The seventh day, He set aside for us to rest in His blessings. This also ties in with the story of Moses wandering in the wilderness for forty years. God commanded the Israelites to gather only enough manna for that day on each of the six days. If they gathered more than what was needed that day, the excess manna would spoil. God then gave them a double portion on the day before the Sabbath. That collection was able to sustain them for both that day and the Sabbath day. God established the routine that we labor for Him for six days and set apart the seventh day to gather with the fellow saints to worship Him corporally.

Another routine that we discuss in our curriculum is the different responsibilities given during a time of sacrifice. Each part of the tabernacle, and eventually, the temple, represent different duties of the people, whether they be a Levite or common man. The tools that God commanded to be used all teach us how to better glorify God. This can also be extended into the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. As a class, we discuss how the bread is a picture of Christ's body and the wine of His blood. It is not merely something they see their parents partake of a few times each year, but we talk about how we can see Christ offering up the greatest sacrifice for His sinful people through this routine.

Even our worship services each week represent a routine that we follow. It is interesting to see the children's reaction when I read the 10 Commandments to them during one of our lessons. Many hands shoot up to tell me that their minister reads the Law to them each week. They are also excited to tell the different Psalters that had been sung during the previous week. It is also interesting how many of the congregation react when something happens out of the "normal" routine of the church service.

God knew our sinful hearts and natures. He ordained laws and routines so that we can use these tools to direct us in our walk with Him. I pray that as we prepare to embark on another season of routines, we do not just go through the motions. Take the time to thank God for the guidelines that He has given us, seeing them as a way that we can better glorify our Great Creator.

## PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK

Mrs. Susann Grasman, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

“Let the Games begin!” is the cry heard around the world this summer, a cry heeded by Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as the city prepares to host the summer Olympics Games of 2016. Kicked off with the Opening Ceremonies held in Maracana Stadium, over 11,000 athletes representing 206 countries from around the globe gathered to participate in 31<sup>st</sup> Olympiad. For two weeks these athletes, many of them the best in the world, will compete in 28 sports, from basketball, gymnastics and diving to table tennis, judo, and golf. Motivated by personal satisfaction, fame and fortune, or love of country, these athletes will all be competing for the most coveted of awards – the gold medal. There will be, however, only 812 gold medals handed out at Rio 2016, and only the very best will achieve the highest mark for which they are aiming. In fact, of the 11,000 plus participants, only 2,488 athletes will return home with any medal at all, for the race is swift, the competition fierce, and the mark incredibly difficult to obtain.

For the athletes of Rio 2016, and the millions of Olympic followers around the world, it will all end with the closing ceremony on August 21. Some will return home as victorious winners, while others will not. The crowds currently impacting Rio de Janeiro will leave, and the experience of Rio

2016 will become a distant memory. The 31<sup>st</sup> Olympiad will be relegated to the annals of history, the races over, the journey complete.

This is not true, however, for the students and staff of Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School who now stand at the racer’s block, the starting line, for a very different type of race – the 2016-2017 school year set to begin at 8:15 am on Monday, August 29. We, the participants of this important race, begin this race with excitement and nervous anticipation. We can’t wait to begin, but are also aware of the high calling that comes with running this race, and the promise that is included. For we have a high calling by God to run the race set before us with patience and endurance, not in our own strength, but by looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12). Armed with this confidence and assurance, we begin the school year knowing that God will be our strength each and every day, supplying all our needs, from the first to the final ringing of the bell each school day. Placing our trust in God, we press toward the mark, not for a gold medal or any other earthly gain, but for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ – that crown of righteousness laid up for those who have finished the course and kept the faith.

## A LITTLE ABOUT ME

Mrs. Stephanie Daling, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

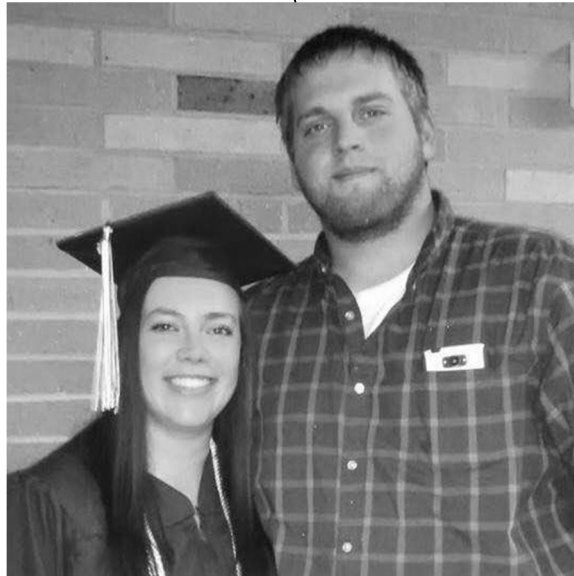
Hello! My name is Stephanie Daling, formerly Stephanie Looyenga, and this will be my first year teaching at Hope PRC School. Where should I begin? Well, for starters, I completed my K-9 Christian education at Adams PRC School. I then went on to complete 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade at Covenant Christian. I grew up in Grandville, MI attending South West PRC.

My parents are Doug and Melissa Looyenga, and I have three younger brothers: Justin works at Kleyn Electric, Nic works for Bosveld Builders, and Ethan will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Adams. I am now married to Brandon Daling and attend Faith PRC. I thoroughly enjoy camping, hiking, biking, rollerblading, reading, and playing volleyball for fun.

After high school, I pursued my lifelong dream of becoming a school teacher. I spent four years at Grand Valley State University, studying biology, chemistry, and other sciences. During my fifth year I studied secondary education and also student taught in both a 9<sup>th</sup> grade classroom and a 10<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. I graduated this past April and knew right away that I wanted to teach in our Protestant Reformed schools. Teaching is an amazing calling

from God, and I have always wanted to help God's covenant children grow in their education, as well as in their faith.

When I first began pursuing a teaching job I was only looking for positions in junior high or high school, because that was the focus of my schooling, however, most of those job opportunities were only available in our schools out of state. I



married Brandon Daling this past June and we bought a house last November, so moving out of state was definitely not an option at this time. With no secondary options available, I began to look outside of our schools. It was then that Hope contacted me and asked if I would be willing to interview for the 2nd grade position.

Wow, so many different things were flying through my head, but after prayerful consideration and countless hours talking it over with family and friends, I decided to apply. And now I am the next 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Hope! God has a plan for all of His children, and I am beyond excited to see His plan play out for me at Hope. It is my prayer that God will be with all of the teachers, students, parents, and other contributors of Hope in this upcoming school year.

## MODELED AFTER MICHAEL PHELPS

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Once every two years, the world's biggest sporting competition takes place. This summer, held in Rio, millions watch the selected athletes compete in the name of their country, hoping to win medals at the Olympic Games. Personally, I enjoy a good competition, and I also enjoy watching the variety of sports taking place during the Olympics. Sports you wouldn't normally even see on television are celebrated by all, as patriotism takes over living rooms across the world.

I enjoy the Olympics for many reasons, but as the games continue, I feel myself start to get caught up in the "hero worship" that surrounds events like these. It is so easy to fall into that trap; an athlete impresses me, so the wonders of Google do their trick and soon I know everything I can about that person – height, weight, training schedule, diet, etc. I cultivate an admiration of this athlete, and soon find myself dropping everything to make sure I can watch each and every competition of his. Just last night, I watched as Gabby stuck the landing, Phelps hit the wall, and America collectively yelled and fist bumped. This is how easily the world convinces us that we need a hero.

In today's society, hero culture is everywhere. People talk about the everyday, local hero; the firefighter who rescues someone from a burning building, or the police officer who walks towards gunfire to save a city. Then there is the superhero; the superhuman from movies, comic books, and video games who solves all problems with supernatural powers in order to save the world. There is also the sports hero; the man or woman who is totally devoted to training and beating personal goals and who won an impossible number of gold

medals at the past three Olympic Games. This is not an exclusive list; there are more of these heroes, those who attained human notoriety, but all of them have something in common. These types of heroes appear to give society what they want: a person to serve as a role model, to look up to, to worship.

These heroes are dangerous. Along with the rest of society, the Christian is not immune to their influence. It really isn't the hero that is worshipped, but what they represent. A perfect person. Someone who can do no wrong, who can show others the right way to walk. Adults and children alike are so fully tricked into looking up to these people, falling in love with the idea of a hero, that their world comes crashing down when those "perfect" people do something wrong. Because humans are fallible. Humans err. Putting our faith in humans will result in disappointment, for all are totally depraved.

So why look at them at all when we have the perfect example right in front of us? Why do we spend so much time memorizing stats, looking up articles, and watching news stations that feature these heroes? We shouldn't even have to look, for we have Christ. We believe in Him and His Word, yet sinfully we try to find perfection in someone else.

This is what I think now as I watch the Olympic Games. What am I teaching others by memorizing these facts instead of memorizing God's Word? What hero can there possibly be who could take the place of Jesus? I know the answer. You know the answer. Let us remember in Whom to put our trust.

*Psalm 28:7a "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him."*

## **A TYPICAL SUMMER**

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

This summer has been quite similar to past summers. The majority of my time was spent with a paint brush or roller in my hand. In spite of the warm temperatures, I enjoyed the work. The climbing of ladders and working outdoors is a sharp contrast from my teaching in the classroom and grading of papers.

For two days this July I put down my paint brush and attended a workshop. The class was taken in Holland on the GVSU campus and was entitled "Teaching Math in the Elementary Classroom." The instructor presented ways to reinforce math concepts through learning games. I walked away with some helpful ideas and many handouts that could be used this school year.

The highlight of the summer was a week of camping. This year my family packed the trailer and our two vans and headed to the Upper Peninsula. After six hours of driving and an hour stop at the Mackinac Bridge, we pitched our tents and popped up the trailer at Indian Lake, a state park eighty-eight miles west of the bridge. Sunny skies and clear starry nights describe the weather. No phones and computers interrupted our days as we enjoyed being outside and exploring this part of the Upper Peninsula.

Our wandering brought us to the other side of Indian Lake to the deep, clear spring called Kitch-iti-kipi. We traveled south to Fayette, a former iron smelting town of the mid to late 1800's on the northern shore of Lake Michigan. A little history was learned as we walked through the old buildings of this historic town. We went north to hike near Lake Superior. The beauty of Pictured Rocks with its many waterfalls and swimming in the clear waters of Lake Superior are memories we will not soon forget. The millions of stars at night, the powerful waves of lakes Michigan and Superior, and the beautiful sunsets each night reminded us of God's great power and glory.

Now with an uneventful trip home from the Upper Peninsula, I am looking forward to the start of a new school year. I am thankful for Hope School and the work of Godly teachers who teach my children. I am grateful for faithful supporters of Hope School and the dedicated labors of our administrator and those serving on the Board and various committees. Above all, I give thanks to God for his covenant faithfulness and the work that He has given me to do at Hope School.

## **LIVING IN A VISUAL SOCIETY II**

Mr. Brian Dykstra, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

This past summer my wife and I walked through a combination garden and sculpture park. The garden was amazing, displaying a rich variety of flowers of different colors and sizes of blooms. Not only were the large beds of roses beautiful, especially, I thought, the light orange ones, the aroma of the roses reached us at some distance. I had anticipated the sculptures to be the work of various artists, but they were by the same man. Although my wife and I prefer our art in the form of paintings, let's simply say we found the art interesting.

Although the crowds were not thick, there were plenty of people. There were street performers as well. (Is it just me, or do all accordion players play the same tune?) Most of the park-goers were younger, in their early 30s and 20s. They were in pairs or small groups. They

appeared to be with close friends.

Were they, really, *with* their friends? I noticed more than half of this generation were on their phones and tablets. They did not pay much attention to the gardens or the sculptures, nor were they looking at each other, engaged in face-to-face conversation. Their attention was fixed on a screen, not on their surroundings or the people with them. Not only is society very visual, much of what our minds absorb is not even from the reality surrounding us, but from screens!

This change in culture, caused by the emergence of social media and the technology supporting it, has caused some concern even among the world's educators. What effects does this revolution have on children and learning? Let's look at two concerns which are currently being researched, one is physical and the other centers on what educators call "emotional intelligence."

I have read articles about several physical concerns about the use of various screens. I'll pass over the concern that one researcher found that toilet seats have fewer germs than do touch screens and focus on posture.

As the young people at the park I observed looked at their screens, I noticed their poor posture. They were not standing with shoulders back and heads erect. They rounded their shoulders forward as they looked at their screens and typed with their thumbs. They tilted their heads forward as well. This posture puts stress on the upper spine. Tilting the head forward can put about 60 pounds of force on the spine. Such force can lead to early wear, degeneration and possibly surgeries. This information is from the Medical Daily website in an article which first appeared November 18, 2014, and was written by Chris Weller.

Weller points out how much of our time can be spent in this posture. One estimate is that people use screens roughly two to four hours each day. That would be 700 to 1,400 hours per year. He then points out that high school students are even worse, perhaps looking at screens as much as 5,000 hours before they graduate. A doctor interviewed by Weller states that we cannot abolish using these devices, but we must be more aware of our posture as we do so. I've heard the advice that after looking at a screen for twenty minutes, one should spend twenty seconds looking at something at least twenty feet away to give eyes a rest; referred to as the 20/20/20 rule. Perhaps we should add that one stand up straight as well while taking this eye break.

Now let's look at screen use on emotional intelligence, which is one's ability to express, recognize, and appropriately respond to emotions, both one's own and others. This information comes from Katherine DeWeese's May 2014 master's thesis titled, "Screen Time, How Much is Too Much? The Social and Emotional Costs of Technology on the Adolescent Brain." (Her paper can be found at the Educational Research Information Center's website. Enter ED546474 in the search box.)

DeWeese read many research papers for her thesis. Her reading caused her to wonder, "Can students define the skills necessary to appraise and express emotion when much of their day is focused on a screen?" DeWeese also cites the work of a psychologist who said, ". . . one's actions and reactions are based on those learned and observed in others." DeWeese notes, "This theory is important when discussing the changes in adolescent brains when not actively observing peer groups or others but rather focusing on inanimate objects and screens." She points out that neural pathways needed for emotional intelligence might not develop strongly enough when several hours of each day are spent observing screens, not reading and

reacting to the body language and facial expressions of those actually present physically with us.

Since much of adolescent “conversation” takes place on social media, the concern is that children will not develop the skills needed to notice subtle clues given by others in facial expressions or gestures. Also, they might not be able to allow others in the group to take turns in face-to-face conversations, wait for others to finish speaking before talking or be able to listen attentively for long periods of time.

For us, as members of the body of Christ, our children need to learn to live with one another. We need to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. We need to learn to listen, really listen, to each other and react in a way to be of spiritual help and support to those in need. Merely texting each other might not be the best way to help our friends. We need face-to-face talks, when possible, with those we care about. It would be beneficial to stand up straight while doing this as well, especially before we bow our heads together in prayer with fellow members of the church to seek God’s guidance and help.

### A FIRM FOUNDATION

Miss Mikal Dykshorn, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

The human body never ceases to amaze me. There is so much going on all at one time, every system has its specific function and without me telling each system what to do, it completes its task. I am constantly in awe of God's creation, our bodies included. Over the summer I enjoy quite a bit of bike riding. I'm no Lance Armstrong by any means, you won't see me in the Tour de France or any other lesser race. In fact my bike doesn't even have speeds, it's just an adorable purple cruiser with a wicker basket in the front. If you decided to drive through Jenison some summer morning you might see me pedaling through town running errands here and there. It is one activity that I truly enjoy.

I enjoy feeling the muscles in my legs push against the pedals as I conquer the hills and I love the feel of the wind as I speed down them. I will admit that there are some hills I come to that I'm not quite excited to conquer, in fact there are some I'm pretty sure I can't. There are these struggles in life as well. There are some tasks or trials I face

that I don't look forward to, and there are some trials that I can't even imagine conquering, let alone facing. But just like when I come to a hill on my bike, I must forge on, the muscles in my legs contracting to push me forward towards my goal. Even if my faith waivers, my muscles continue to work. The muscles are the foundation of my movement. Without muscle it would be impossible for me to do anything.

Just as my muscles are the foundation of my movement, God's word is the foundation of our actions as well. No matter what trials, hills, or mountains we reach, no matter how ominous or hopeless they seem, our foundation is God's word and our hope is in Him. We must forge on. Peter explains this to us as well in 2 Peter 1:19-21,

*Have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day stars arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not*

*in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

The apostle states that the Word is a light in the darkness of this world. This world we live in is dark in sin. I think I can hazard to say that when we face those trials we feel the darkness of this world encamped closely around us. The light that we need in that darkness, the light we need to help us to keep moving is God's word. The apostle goes on to state that our faith and hope should be firmly placed in God's infallible and divinely inspired word. With this firm foundation we can face the darkness and sin in our own human natures as well as the world around us. We can use our foundation in God's word for strength. *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me, Philippians 4:13.*

Just as we face trials on earth, there are times of great rejoicing as well. Times when it seems as if everything has fallen into place just as we would have liked it. I think I can equate this to the feeling of racing down the hills. The wind blowing against me making me feel as if I was almost flying. I wouldn't be able to enjoy those moments, had I not worked hard to reach the top of the hill. Many times I'm sure we wouldn't enjoy the "good" times in this life without the

trials as well. But during these times of rejoicing we must not become lackadaisical. We must remember our firm foundation even then. We need only look at the history of Israel to see what a temptation this is. They faced the trial of captivity in Egypt, God brought them out of captivity and in their time of rejoicing they forgot their foundation and worshipped the golden calf. Israel became a great nation under David and Solomon and again forgot their foundation and were taken into captivity. Israel faced trials and called on God, God delivered them and they became lax in their worship, they forgot their foundation. Ecclesiastes 7:14, *In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.*

It doesn't matter if I'm putting forth great effort to surge up a hill or soaring down from a summit, my muscles are the foundation of my actions, without them I can do nothing. Just as we face trials and tribulations and times of abundance and joy, our foundation is God's word. Without Christ we can do nothing. It is only through Him we have strength to accomplish anything.

## WHAT I LEARNED ON MY SUMMER VACATION

Mr. Ed Bos, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The classic theme for students coming back to school in the fall is a paragraph on "What I did on my summer vacation". Well, this is a variation of that theme: "What I learned on my summer vacation". This was the fastest summer break of my life. Usually, the summer starts slowly, with my knowing there is a whole summer ahead of me. Then as August

approaches, it picks up speed, and then August flies by and we're back in school. But this summer was flying from day one. This is mainly because I was so busy, and in the process, I learned a lot.

The first thing I learned was that remodeling makes a mess. Now this is something I was told and so I had head knowledge of it, but experiencing it was a



whole other story. In the process, I learned that it's useless to clean the house until the whole remodel job is finished. But then the cleaning is phenomenal – somehow, no matter what you do to protect far-off rooms from getting dust in them, dust is going to get there! And not only a little bit gets there! So that was lesson one.

Lesson number two is that even in the clouds, Norway is an absolutely beautiful part of God's creation. The mountains rise several thousand feet straight up out of the fjords. The snow-capped mountains and glaciers add to the beauty. And then there are the birds – the gannets, sea eagles, cormorants, razorbills, and puffins – which show the wonders of creation; puffins don't even look like they should be able to fly. Even the man-made parts are marvelous – the long tunnels which have traffic circles and entrance and exit ramps inside them, the harbors, etc. – show that by God's providence, man is able to subdue much of the creation.

Another lesson in Norway concerns the people. These are not Christian people. The nation is nominally Lutheran, but the churches are empty; there is no true belief in God. And yet the people are the nicest, kindest, most helpful (and patient with American goofballs) people I have met, I think. We did not come across a single incident in which someone was unwilling to help out when we had, for example, problems with the internet, or with the different pay-at-the-pump gas stations, or the parking pay centers in parking ramps which had everything in Norwegian, of course; this was even true of people who were obviously in a hurry to get somewhere else. I know there is a lot I personally can learn from them. Should I not, as a child of God exhibit even more patience in my life – in all aspects, but especially with my students? It is so easy to lose patience

especially when they try the limits of your patience. And, of course, there is the lesson of how patient God is with us; should we not, then, be long-suffering with each other?

After Norway came the BRF Conference at Castlewellan Castle in Northern Ireland. Once again the lesson was pressed in on me of the catholicity of the Church. This was true even more this year than in the past. People came from Hungary, the Philippines, Singapore, Australia, as well as from the regular countries (for attendance) of the U.K., Ireland, the U.S. and Canada. God gathers his people from all different countries and cultures. And although we observe different customs (I, for one, will probably never try eating durian or balut), it is amazing how we all make a nearly instant connection because of our common faith. It was good to reunite with old friends and family, as well as friends who have become as close as family.

We also learned a lot from the conference itself. We learned about Hillsborough Castle (where the Queen lives when she visits Northern Ireland), the Battle of the Boyne, Trim Castle, and other locations. More importantly, we learned about the Word of God. Rev. Lanning had a sermon on "Methuselah" (or as the computer's auto-correct put it, "Rev. Landing" had a sermon on "Methylated Spirits"). You'd never think a whole sermon could be made on something the Bible says so little about; but it all centered on the meaning of the name – that the prophet Enoch named his son, "When he dies, it shall come." The flood came the year that Methuselah died.

The topic of the conference was "The Last Days". The speeches showed the difficult time we live in as well as the even more difficult times we face. It also dealt

with the false doctrines in dealing with all this – dispensationalism, premillennialism, postmillennialism, the rapture, etc. But “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision.” God is sovereignly in control, and we need not worry. All the speeches were excellent and they generated a lot of questions and good, healthy discussion afterward. I could go into all I learned in the speeches, but this has gotten long enough. The speeches have been recorded, and they will also be available in book form eventually. I encourage you to either listen to them or read them, as well as to try to get to the next

conference in South Wales in 2018, the Lord willing; the topic is going to be on the family (considering the age in which we live, this is a timely topic).

So, as I write this, there are about three more weeks of summer break. I hope to get a couple more books read (the reading I have done already have supplied me with new stories to accompany the lesson plans) and hopefully I’ll learn a little more. We should never stop learning, especially about the things that concern the Kingdom of God. I hope you all had profitable summers as well, and I look forward to beginning a new school year!

## WRITING, WRITING, AND WRITING

Mr. Nathan DeVries, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Writing! The word (with exam a close second) that strikes fear into most students, and when spoken aloud, brings groans from every direction of the classroom. Writing, however, is an important skill for secondary students to become proficient in; especially those who plan to attend college or university. Good writing skills translate into good communication skills and improved thought processes along with the obvious benefit of the ability to be able to put thoughts into words on paper. Writing ability appears to be lacking in the majority of students in the U.S. According to a government study released on and reported at Bloomberg.com September 14, 2012, almost 75% of 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students failed to show proficiency level writing on a national writing test. In fact, only 24% achieved proficiency and just 3% were categorized as advanced writers. Although a continuing trend, studies show that student writing levels have decreased significantly in the last five years. College professors report that students from all types of backgrounds and schools lack basic writing skills, the ability to think critically, and are not proficient in citing sources.

The way to improve writing skills is writing, writing, and more writing. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Hope School spent one full semester last year writing. Starting with proper paragraph structure and finishing with properly cited research papers, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders spent many class periods and much time at home working hard on improving writing skills. Included in their assignments were timed writing, paragraphs, transition sentences, thesis statements, descriptive essays, compare/contrast essays, debate statements, short biographies, creative writing, research papers, and articles for the *Highlights*. This year’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will also be doing much of the same writing (with a few changes to be sure) with the added benefit of the Chromebooks purchased for the school. The Chromebooks will help streamline the English writing curriculum and make writing class time much more efficient. Eighth grade English this coming year will hopefully be writing, writing, and writing some more.

## ELEMENTARY MUSIC PROGRAM

Mrs. Deb Kuiper, Elementary Music Teacher

Many Hope School parents and supporters are familiar with the Elementary Music Program which is held toward the end of each school year. Perhaps fewer are familiar with the work the students do in elementary music class throughout the year.

The Elementary Music Program was started 25 years ago by Mrs. Marilyn DeVries and Mrs. Bonnie Moelker. They believed that if students were given consistent instruction, they could learn to sing more skillfully. Teaching children to recognize and sing on pitch became one main component of the program. Another main component was teaching children about rhythm. With consistent instruction students learned to recognize a beat, the value of notes and how to count.

After 16 years, Mrs. DeVries and Mrs. Moelker retired and Mrs. Mindy Bleyenbergh and I took over. We didn't know each other very well before this venture, but we both had a desire to continue the tradition of teaching music to children. It turned out to be a good partnership and Mindy and I are starting our 9<sup>th</sup> year.

So, what do we actually do in elementary music class? We meet with the 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for a half hour each once a week. At the beginning of the year, we talk about the different sounds we hear around us. We talk about high and low sounds and how they fit together to make songs. We make "fire engine" sounds with our voices and pretend we are "falling off a cliff". We work hard to match our voices to a pitch that is given and to blend with those singing around us.

In the first grade, we talk about how God has given children voices that are just their size. Just as it would be silly for children to wear their dad's Sunday suit, so it is inappropriate for them to sing with low voices "down in the basement". We continue to emphasize this throughout the three years of elementary music instruction. By the time the students are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they have learned this lesson, which makes it easier for them to move into choir in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

We discuss different kinds of voices that we use such as whispering, talking, singing and shouting. Each of these voices has a place, but they are not all appropriate to use in music. The children have fun using these voices and laugh to think that we would mistakenly use the wrong one for singing. However, throughout the year, there are times that we go back to this lesson to remember that although we are filled with joy when singing the praises of God, it is not a time to shout.

We have a lot of fun learning about rhythm. At the beginning of the year, we watch a metronome, noticing that whether it is going fast or slow, it is still beating consistently. We work to match our clapping, stomping or instrument playing to the beat of the metronome, the teacher's counting or the rhythm of a song. You would be surprised how hard it is to not get ahead of the teacher! Students learn to count aloud to various time signatures. While we spend much of our time on 3/4 and 4/4 time, we have been known to move on to the harder 6/8 time.

We teach students the value of eighth, quarter, half, dotted half and whole notes. The students learn how various combinations of notes go together to make the right amount of counts in a measure. They see that counting notes in a measure is much like figuring out an addition problem. After students learn to count a certain rhythm, we divide into sections with

each group playing their own rhythm. It is hard at first for them to learn to hold their own rhythm while others around them are playing a different rhythm, but with practice, they learn to play together. By the time the students leave the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they know the value of notes, the names of notes and how to read music.

We also work on following the director and singing clearly. Students learn what it means to carry a note through or cut off together. We emphasize the importance of enunciation. We pretend that there is an "old grandma" in the back of the auditorium who has a hard time hearing, but still needs to understand the words.

We also make time to have children sing by themselves. While we have only a few solos or duets at our end of the year program, we have all students sing alone at some time during the year. By doing this, children can see that it is not so hard to just sing out. They learn to compose themselves while they sing or someone near them is singing. They learn that we do not giggle or hide our face in our hands while we sing, nor do we stare at someone else who is singing. By starting early, children are less intimidated and more eager to try singing alone. Success breeds success, and children who figure out early that they understand and enjoy music will have a lot more fun with music throughout their life.

We talk about the abilities that God has given each one of us. Just as reading, math or sports are easier for some than others, so learning music comes easier for some children than for others. Students decide that it is not a bad thing for us to help each other improve (no one thinks it would be bad to help the teachers learn to hold a bat correctly in softball), and just as we would never laugh at someone who was struggling in math, so we encourage those who are working on their music skills.

Each year holds its special things to anticipate. In first grade, we use rhythm instruments and kazoos, in second grade boomwhackers and in third grade bells and dowels and also learn two-part singing. As teachers we often find ourselves wishing that the half hour didn't go by so quickly and that we had more time to work on each skill.

I cannot conclude this article without a "thank you" to our classroom teachers. The teachers sit in the music class and practice the concepts we teach in their classrooms. It would do no good for us to teach children these concepts if they were not reinforced throughout the week. When children sing correctly at a program, it is the result of a partnership throughout the whole school.

Hopefully this gives a glimpse into what we do throughout the year. The next time you attend an Elementary Music Program, you'll know a little bit more about the program behind the program.

NEWS FOR YOU. . .

1. **Parents of Kindergarten students, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and new students:** Immunizations are required for all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade, kindergarten, and all new students. If your child's shots are not up to date, please have them completed by Monday, August 29.
2. If you have any questions regarding the bus transportation schedules, please contact the transportation supervisor, Dan Kalsbeek, at 791-4425.
3. The "School Supply Store" has many school supplies for sale including flash drives and calculators at low prices throughout the year. The "store" (located in the office) is open before school begins in the morning and during first recess.
4. If you would like to receive the **Monday Memo** via email, please send your request to [hopeschool@hopeprcschool.org](mailto:hopeschool@hopeprcschool.org) or call 453-9717. If you received the memo last year, you are already on the list and do not have to email or call.
5. PLEASE try to avoid making appointments during school hours on these dates:  
**HEARING TESTING** will be held on Tuesday, September 6 for grades K, 2, 4, & 6  
**VISION TESTING** will be held on Wednesday, September 7 for grades 1, 3, & 5  
**SCHOOL PICTURES!** - Friday, September 23

**2016-17 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

• August 29	First Day of School
• September 2-5	Labor Day Break
• September 6	Hearing Screening (K,2,4,6)
• September 7	Vision Screening (1,3,5)
• September 23	School Pictures
• October 6	PTA
• October 13-14	Parent/Teacher Conferences
• October 20-21	Teachers' Convention (Dyer, IN)
• November 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
• December 2	All-School Program
• Dec. 23-Jan. 2	Christmas Break
• February 9	PTA
• March 2-3	Parent/Teacher Conferences
• April 3-7	Spring Vacation
• May 12	Elementary Music Program
• May 29	Memorial Day – No School
• June 1	Graduation
• June 3	Hope Classic Races

*On Thursday, August 30,  
**7:00-8:30 pm**, we will have an informational meeting at Hope School regarding the upcoming LEGO Robotics season. All students interested in joining the LEGO Robotics team(s), with their parents, are invited to attend this meeting. This year's challenge will also be revealed at that time. We hope that you will join us!*

**CUPCAKE & SNACK SALE  
 CARD!**

**\$9.00/per year/per student**

- The School Circle will once again be selling cupcakes every other Wednesday.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take turns selling snacks on the alternating Wednesdays.
- Look for the sign-up sheet coming home with your child the first week of school.



# SUPPLY LISTS

## Kindergarten

Backpack  
Folder w/ pockets  
Scissors  
Crayons (24)  
Pencil box/holder  
Paint shirt (labeled)  
Markers (optional)

Pillow (labeled)  
Gym shoes - velcro style (labeled)  
2-3 large glue sticks  
Eraser  
Colored Pencils (optional)

\*We provide "fat" Tri-Write pencils



## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

KJV Bible (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)  
Pencil box  
4 pencils  
1 large eraser  
Washable markers  
16-24 crayons

Scissors  
Folder (2 pocket)  
Paint shirt  
Gym shoes (labeled)  
Colored Pencils  
2 solid glue sticks

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

KJV Bible  
Pencil box  
12 Pencils (#2)  
2 large erasers  
16-24 crayons  
Colored pencils  
Washable markers  
2 Spiral notebooks

Homework folder with 2 pockets  
Gym shoes (labeled)  
Paint shirt (labeled with name)  
2 solid glue sticks  
Scissors  
Red Pen  
2 plastic folders with 2 pockets



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

KJV Bible  
12 Pencils  
Glue stick  
2 large erasers  
Colored pencils  
Gym shoes  
Washable markers  
Ruler with inches & cm

Pencil box  
1 red pen  
Scissors  
1 sock (no holes)  
Crayons (16-24)  
2 plastic folders with 2 pockets  
1 spiral notebook (NO binders)  
2 (100 ct) packages of sticky notes

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

KJV Bible  
Pencils/Erasers  
Gym shoes (labeled)  
3 Red pens  
Colored pencils  
Ruler w/ inches & cm.

Wide-ruled notebook paper  
Scissors  
3-ring binder  
Binder dividers with 5 tabs  
Glue Stick or Elmer's Glue



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

KJV Bible  
Crayons  
Ruler  
Pencil sharpener  
Gym Shoes  
Glue stick or rubber cement  
Binder dividers with 5 tabs

Pencils/Eraser  
Scissors  
Notebook paper  
3-ring binder

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

KJV Bible  
Psalter  
Notebook paper  
Gym shoes (labeled)  
Eraser  
Pens  
Highlighter  
3-5 subject notebook  
Flash Drive

3 ring binder w/ 6 folders  
Assignment Book  
Pencils  
Scissors (good)  
Colored pencils  
Ruler  
Black felt tip pen  
Pencil Sharpener  
Glue or rubber cement



## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

KJV Bible w/ references, concordance, and maps  
Blue/black pens  
Several red pens  
Colored pencils  
Pencils  
Scissors  
Something in which to carry above items  
Notebook paper  
Binder w/ folders  
Assignment book  
5 subject notebook  
Math supplies: protractor, ruler, & compass (optional)  
Scientific calculator - TI-30XIIS (available at school for \$14)  
Flash drive  
Gym clothes – labeled  
Gym Shoes  
Single subject notebook

### PARENTS:

Please mark your child's items with his/her name, especially clothing items.